

## December Feature Article

### New Jersey Highlights of the 2009 American Community Survey

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*This article presents highlights of 2009 ACS single year estimates for New Jersey. The estimates cover geographies with 65,000 or more in population. In December, the Census Bureau will release the first set of 5-year estimates that include responses from the 2005 to 2009 ACS sample and will cover geographies down to the block group level for many social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics. In January, the Census Bureau will release 3-year estimates from the 2007 to 2009 ACS sample. These estimates will cover geographies with population of 20,000 or more. It is important to note that these three estimates releases from the 2009 ACS do not contain results from the 2010 Census and do not represent an early release of decennial census data. A more in-depth look at income, earnings, poverty and health insurance coverage from the 2009 ACS 1-year estimates was published in the October 2010 issue of Economic Indicators.*

*When looking at the results from the US Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) it is important to be aware that the data includes "group quarters" data. These data were included beginning with the 2006 ACS. These types of data are defined as those persons living in prisons, college dorms, barracks, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, etc. This segment of the population was not included in the 2005 American Community Survey Data and prior year's ACS data that were based on household population only. This is an important distinction when making comparisons of data prior to the 2006 ACS.*

#### Population

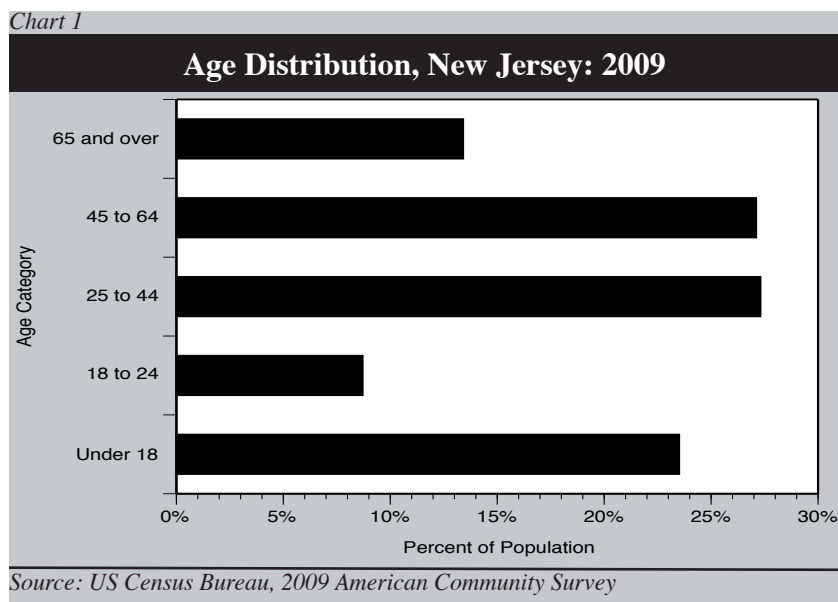
According to the 2009 ACS, New Jersey's estimated total population was 8,707,739. This made the Garden State the 11th most populated state, between California (37.0 million) the highest populated state, and Wyoming (.5 million) the lowest populated state. Based on the estimates released from the US Census Bureau's population estimates program, in December of 2006, New Jersey was no longer the tenth most populated state in the nation. In 2006, North Carolina replaced New Jersey as the tenth most populated state. In 2000, the Garden State's population was ranked ninth and dropped in rankings to tenth in 2003.

Among New Jersey's counties, approximately 10.3 percent of the state's total population resided in Bergen County making it the highest populated county in the state with 895,250 people. Salem County is the least populated county with 66,342 people.

#### Age, Race and Sex

The median age in New Jersey was 38.7 years old, which ranked 11th oldest among all states. Maine had the oldest median age at 42.2 years while Utah was the youngest state at 28.9

years. The median age nationally, in 2009, was 36.8 years of age. A look at New Jersey's counties reveals that the median age ranged from a slightly younger 34.5 years in Hudson County to a more distinguished 47.2 years in Cape May County. More than 23.0 percent (23.5% or 2 million) of New Jersey's total population were under 18 years of age while 1.2 million or 13.4 percent were 65 years old and over. Approximately 5.5 million or 63.1 percent of total population were between 18 and 64 years of age.



Slightly more than 8.5 million (97.9%) of New Jersey residents report themselves as one race. Just under seventy one percent (6.2 million or 70.7%) of these people were white; 13.7 percent (1.2 million) were Black or African American; and 7.8 percent (0.7 million) were Asian. New Jersey ranks third behind Hawaii and California in the percentage of the population who report themselves as Asian alone. Among any of the race categories, 1.4 million (16.7%) report themselves as being Hispanic or of Latino origin.

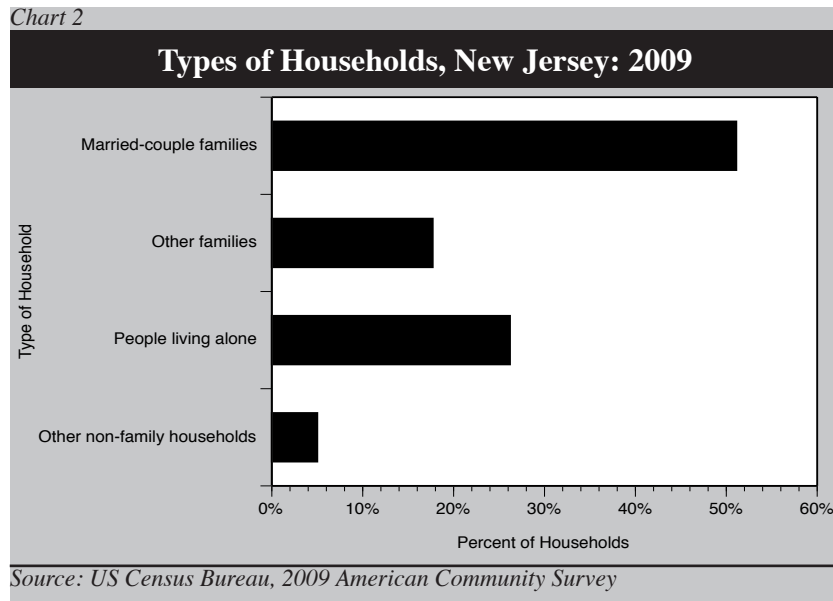
As a state, New Jersey was 51 percent (4.4 million) female and 49 percent (4.3 million) male according to the 2009 ACS. This closely mirrors the national gender distribution of 50.7 percent female and 49.3 percent male.

## Households and Families<sup>1</sup>

In 2009 the Garden State was home to some 3.2 million households. The size of an average household in New Jersey was 2.7 people which ranked 9th largest nationally. The national average household size in 2009 was 2.6 people. Utah had the largest household size (3.2 people) and North Dakota had the smallest household size (2.2 people).

ACS data on household type in New Jersey, reveals that approximately 2.2 million households (68.8%) were family households. The average family size was 3.3 people. Married-couple family households accounted for 1.6 million (51.1%) of households in the state while other families totaled just over half a million people (560,527 or 17.8%).

Statewide, non-family households numbered nearly 1 million or 31.2 percent of all households in 2009. People living alone accounted for 26.2 percent of households and those households with one or more people aged 65 years and over accounted for 26.3 percent of total households in the state. A closer look at both of these groups reveal that 10.3 percent of New Jersey households are made up of householders aged 65 years and over and living alone.



## Place of Birth and Language Spoken

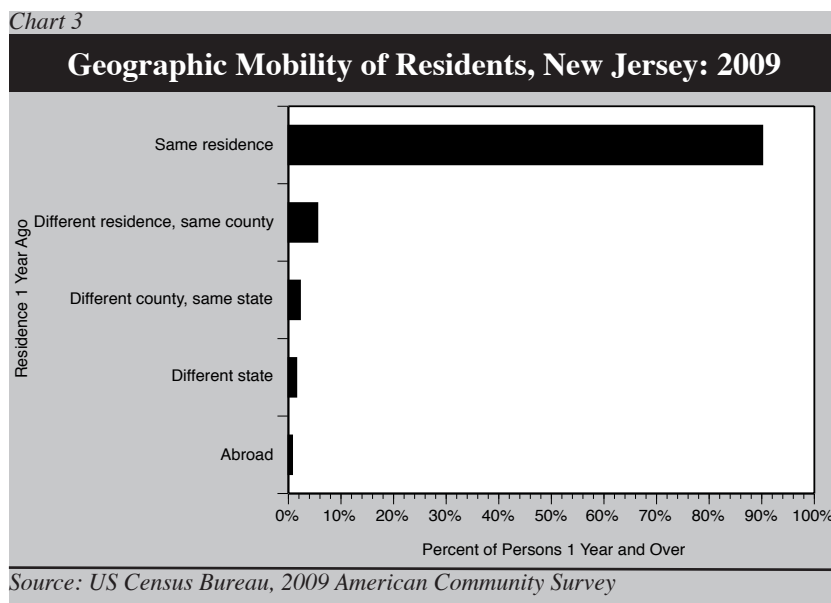
In the United States, 12.5 percent of the total population was considered foreign born. In comparison, approximately one out of every five persons (1.8 million or 20.2%) living in New Jersey were foreign born. California (26.9%) and New York (21.4%) were the only states that had a higher percentage of total population in this category. Among New Jersey counties, Hudson County had the highest percentage of foreign born (38.3%) while Salem County had the lowest (2.1%). Nearly 4.6 million (52.7%) of the total population were born in New Jersey with another 2.1 million people (24.6%) born in a different state.

Among the population five years and over in New Jersey (8.2 million), 71.5 percent speak English while the remaining 28.5 percent speak a language other than English at home. This percentage tied for 5th highest nationally with Nevada and behind the states of California (43.1%), New Mexico (35.8%), Texas (34.2%) and New York (29.0%). Out of those who speak a language other than English in New Jersey, 1.2 million (50.4%) speak Spanish and 42.5 percent reported that they did not speak English “very well”.

## Place of Residence

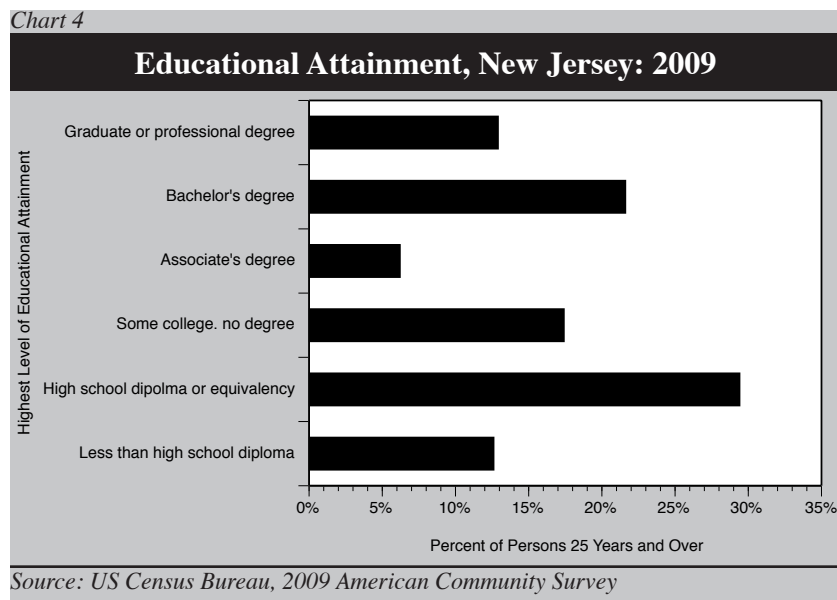
The 2009 ACS also reports estimates of geographic mobility for the population aged one year and over. Of the 8.6 million people in this age range, 90.1 percent (7.8 million) were living

in the same residence as in the previous year. Another 5.5 percent moved within the past year from another residence in the same county; 3.7 percent moved from a different county within New Jersey; 1.5 percent moved here from out of state, and 0.7 percent moved to the Garden State from abroad.



## Educational Attainment

In 2009, the educational attainment level of New Jersey's total population 25 years and older was above the national average. The ACS reported that 87.4 percent of New Jerseyans had a high school education or higher and 34.5 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. This surpasses the national average of 85.3 percent with a high school education or higher and 27.9 percent with a bachelor's degree or higher.



The ACS also reported that total school enrollment in the Garden State for 2009 was 2.2 million. Enrollment in nursery school and kindergarten was approximately 299,700. Just under 1.4 million were enrolled in elementary (grades 1-8) and high (grades 9-12) school. Those pursuing higher-level education in college and graduate school accounted for more than 555,000 people.

## Disability

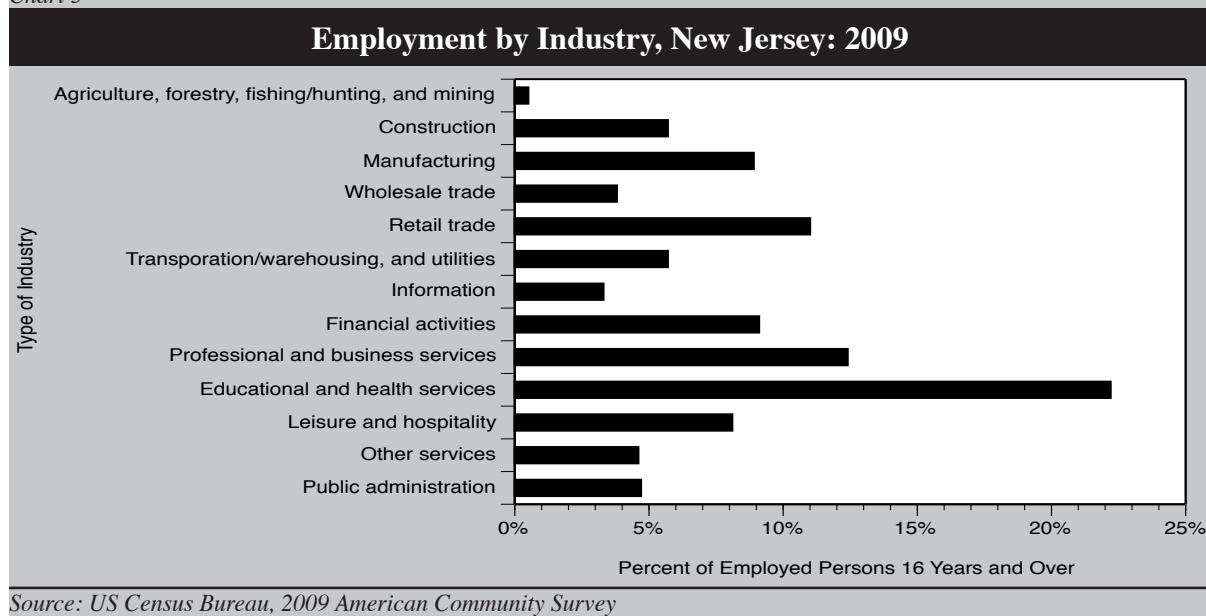
Among New Jersey's 8.6 million civilian non-institutionalized population in 2009, 10.1 percent reported a disability. This is below the national average of 12.1 percent. Across age groups, as one would expect, this percentage increased as age groups progress. In New Jersey, those under age 18, were reported to have a 3.6 percent (72,635) disability rate. The 18 to 64 year old category had 7.7 percent (414,638) reporting a disability. The 65-year and over age group had the largest rate of disabilities reported at 33.7 percent (379,313).

## Employment Status and Industry Employment

The employment status data reported in the 2009 ACS relate to the population 16 years and over. Approximately 6.9 million people in New Jersey were part of this age group in 2009. Those considered in the labor force from this group numbered for 4.7 million or 67.4 percent of the population 16 years and over. Nationally, the rate of those considered in the labor force from this age group was 65.3 percent. In 2009, 47 percent of those in the labor force were female, and 53 percent were male.

The 2009 ACS results for New Jersey indicated, for the employed persons 16 years and over, that the industries employing the greatest number of people were educational and health services (927,755 or 22.2%), professional and business services (519,903 or 12.4%), and retail trade (461,614 or 11.0%).

Chart 5



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## Occupations and Class of Worker

The 2009 ACS results also indicated that the most common occupations among New Jersey's employed population aged 16 years or older were management, professional, and related occupations (1,646,180 or 39.3%); sales and office occupations (1,102,844 or 26.4%); service occupations (690,974 or 16.5%); production, transportation, and material moving occupations (424,221 or 10.1%); and construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations (307,266 or 7.3%). The vast majority of people employed in New Jersey are private sector wage and salary workers (3,378,595 or 80.7%). Another 14.4 percent (602,378) worked for federal, state, or local government. Slightly less than five percent were self-employed in their own non-incorporated business (198,522 or 4.7%).

## Commuting to Work

The preferred means of commuting to work in New Jersey, according to the 2009 ACS, is driving to work alone. More than 71.4 percent of workers traveled to work this way while an additional 8.7 percent carpooled to work. Those who reported using public transportation to commute to work accounted for 10.6 percent of workers; 3.4 percent walked to work; and another 4.0 percent work at home. According to the ACS, the average commute time in New Jersey was 29.8 minutes. This ranked as the third longest commute time behind New York (31.4 minutes) and Maryland (31.3 minutes). North Dakota had the shortest commute time (16.6 minutes). Nationally, the average travel time to work was 25.1 minutes.

## Income

Results from the 2009 ACS reveal that the median household income in New Jersey was second among all the states at \$68,342 behind only Maryland at \$69,272. Rounding out the top five were Connecticut (\$67,034), Alaska (\$66,953) and Hawaii (\$64,098). Nationally, the median household income was \$50,221. Mississippi was the state with the lowest median household income at \$36,646. Among New Jersey counties, the three counties with the highest median household income were Hunterdon County (\$100,729), Morris County (\$96,787), and Somerset County (\$89,871). The county with the lowest median household income was Cumberland County (\$48,959).

The median family income in the Garden State in 2009 was \$83,381, ranking second among all states behind only Maryland (\$84,254) and ahead of Connecticut (\$83,069), Massachusetts (\$84,415), and Alaska (\$79,934). Mississippi was also lowest in this income category (\$45,601). The median family income for the nation in 2009 was \$61,082. Not surprisingly, the three New Jersey counties with the highest median family income were the same as those with the highest median household income: Hunterdon County (\$123,759), Morris County (\$114,355), and Somerset County (\$105,877). Cape May County had the lowest median household income (\$58,267).

## Health Insurance Coverage

In New Jersey, 12.6 percent (1,084,088) of the civilian non-institutionalized population were without health insurance in 2009. While lower than the national rate (15.1%), the number represents a 0.6 percentage point increase over the 2008 estimate (12.0%). Among the 87.4 percent of the state's residents (7.5 million) that have health insurance, 73.6 percent (6.3 million) have private insurance coverage while the remaining 24.4 percent (2.1 million) have public health coverage. Thirty states had a higher percentage of uninsured than New Jersey, the highest being Texas (23.8%) and the lowest was Massachusetts (4.2%). Hudson (21.6%), Passaic (17.9%) and Essex (17.7%) had the highest rates of uninsured among New Jersey's counties while Hunterdon had the lowest percentage of population without insurance (5.7%).

In New Jersey, men were a higher percentage of uninsured (14.4%) than women (10.9%) and as a percentage, the uninsured among Hispanic or Latino residents (29.1% or 418,100) was much higher than the percentage of uninsured among white (10.3% or 625,900) and black (15.0% or 171,600) residents. The percentage of uninsured among New Jersey children under 18 years old decreased from 6.7 percent to 6.4 percent between 2008 and 2009. Both of these rates were lower than the nation's uninsured rate for children under 18 years old which decreased from 9.3 percent to 8.6 percent during the same period. Public assistance programs aimed at reducing the number of uninsured children explain the decline in this age group.

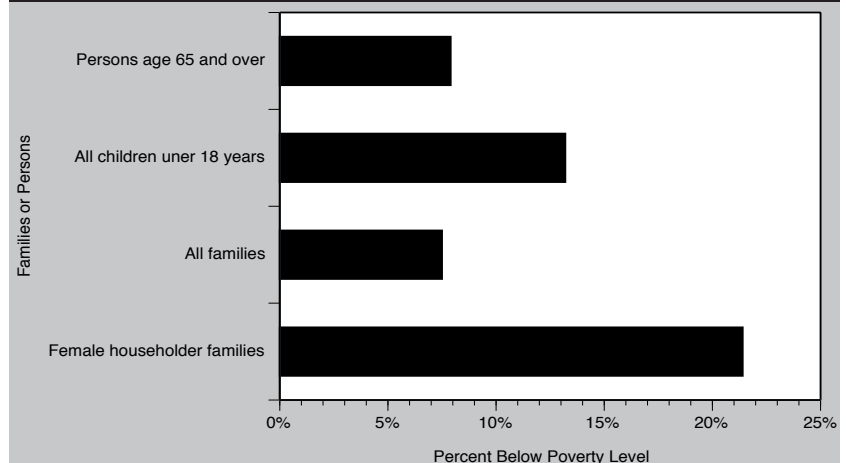
## Poverty<sup>2</sup>

The 2009 ACS reports that 9.4 percent of people in New Jersey were below poverty level. While this rate is up significantly from the 2008 ACS (8.8%), only New Hampshire (8.5%) Alaska (9.0%), and Maryland (9.1%) had lower percentages of people in poverty status. Mississippi (21.9%), Arkansas (18.8%), Kentucky (18.6%), and the District of Columbia (18.4%) had the highest percentage of people below poverty level. The percentage of people in poverty nationally, in 2009 was 14.3 percent. At the county geography level, Passaic (17.2%), Cumberland (16.0%), and Essex (14.5%) counties had the greatest percentage of people below poverty level while Morris County (3.3%) had the least.

The percentage of people under 18 years of age that are below the poverty level was 13.5 percent while the percentage of people 65 years and over that are living in poverty was 7.9 percent. The percentage of all New Jersey families living below the poverty level was 7 percent in 2009. This percentage tripled for those families with a female householder but no husband present (21.4%).

Chart 6

### Poverty Rates, New Jersey: 2009



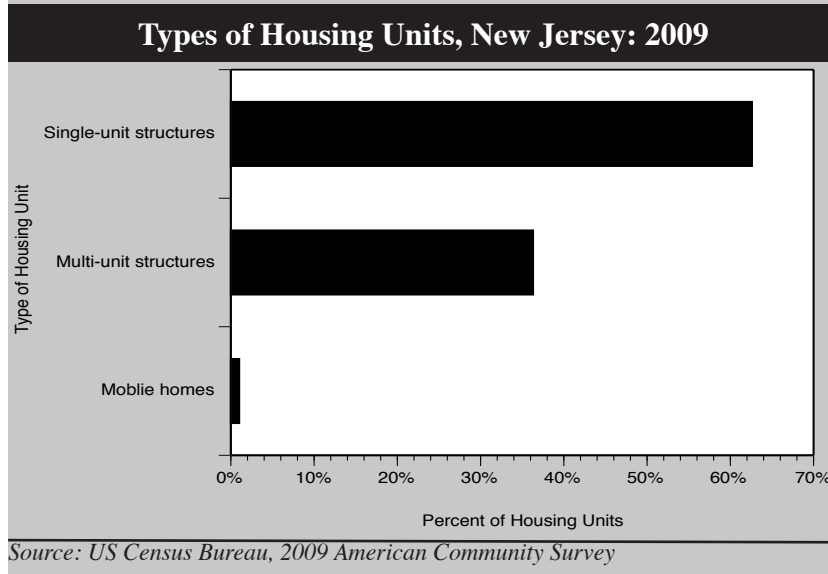
Source: US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey



## Housing Characteristics

New Jersey had approximately 3.5 million housing units in 2009. Just over 2.2 million (2,208,412 or 62.7%) were single unit structures. Another 36.3 percent (1,279,195) were multi-unit structures and the remaining one percent were mobile homes. Approximately 10.5 percent (370,028) of total housing units in the Garden State were vacant in 2009. Over half a million (631,231 or 17.9%) of the housing units in New Jersey were built in 1990 or later.

Chart 7

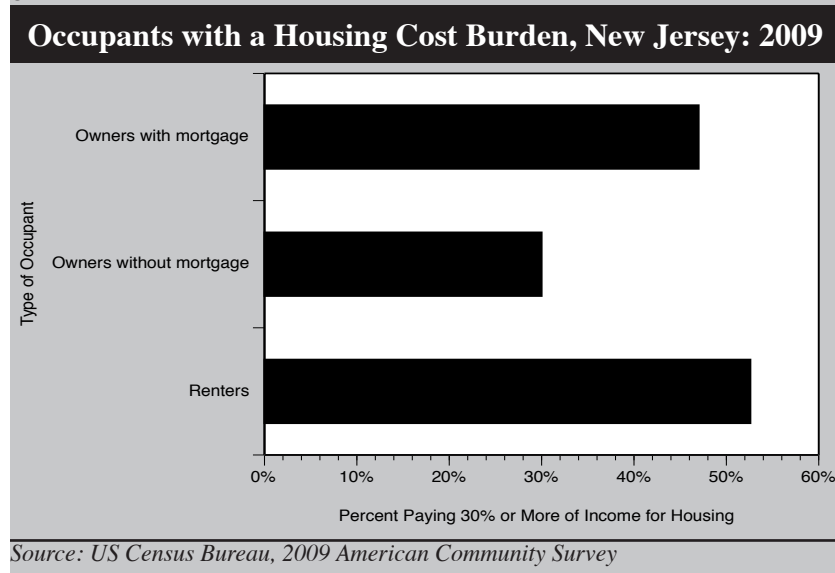


Among the 3.2 million occupied housing units in New Jersey, just over 2.1 million (2,086,551 or 66.1%) are owner occupied housing units. The remaining 33.9 percent (1,068,375) were renter occupied housing units. Some of the more interesting characteristics of occupied housing units in New Jersey include 2.1 percent (64,721) having no telephone service available; 11.8 percent (372,952) of housing units have no vehicles available while 53.4 percent (1,682,264) had two or more vehicles available; and 73.5 percent (2,318,805) of housing units heat their homes with natural gas from the utility company.

The median housing value of owner-occupied housing in New Jersey for 2009 was \$348,300. This value ranked fourth nationally behind Hawaii (\$517,600), the District of Columbia (\$443,700), and California (\$384,200). In the United States, median housing value was

\$185,200. The state with the lowest median housing value among owner-occupied housing, in 2009, was West Virginia (\$94,500). Among counties in the Garden State, the three with the highest median value were Bergen County (\$475,900), Morris County (\$458,200), and Somerset County (\$430,200), while the three lowest were Cumberland County (\$178,600), Salem County (\$190,300) and Camden County (\$226,900).

Chart 8



According to the 2009 ACS, median monthly hous-



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ing costs for owners with a mortgage was \$2,401 while owners without a mortgage paid \$895 monthly and renters paid \$1108 in housing costs. The number of housing units where 30.0 percent or more of income was spent on housing among housing units with a mortgage, in 2009, was 697,078 (47.0%); housing units without a mortgage (177,937 or 30.0%) and renters (440,681 or 52.6%).

## About the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the US Census Bureau's answer to data user's ever increasing need for more timely data. It is also a critical component of the bureau's re-engineered decennial census for 2010 and future decennial censuses. The Census Bureau has defined the goals of the ACS as follows:

- Provide federal, state, local, and tribal governments an information base for the administration and evaluation of their programs.
- Improve the 2010 Census.
- Provide data users with timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data updated every year that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups.<sup>3</sup>

In the past, the decennial census has been the source of data needed by federal, state, and local governments to distribute funding among jurisdictions and population groups. The problem with the 2000 Census is that the data became out-of-date quickly as the decade progressed. However, with the ACS, more timely annual data will be available to identify changes in population, housing and their related characteristics.

Throughout the decade, the ACS will annually collect data typically found on the decennial census' "long form" questionnaire. The "long form" is a sample based survey used to collect and estimate demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of the population and housing stock. The ACS will replace the need for a "long form" questionnaire in 2010 and allow resources to focus on a "short form" census every 10 years. The "short form" will be used to provide counts of people and housing units only.

## Sample Size and Data Availability

In 2005, the ACS began full implementation using a rolling, random sample of housing addresses throughout the US every month. The annual sample size of the ACS is about 3 million housing unit addresses nationally. Prior to 2005 (2000-2004), as part of its testing phase, the ACS had a sample size of about 800,000 addresses per year and produced estimates for all geographies with at least 250,000 people. These geographies included the US, states, places, counties and metropolitan areas. The release of annual estimates from the ACS for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more began in 2006. For New Jersey, single year estimates are now available each year for the state and all 21 counties, all 13 Congressional Districts, all 7 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), and the 19 largest county subdivisions (municipalities) with population greater than 65,000. Three year average estimates are also available for geographic areas with population of 20,000 or more. Beginning in 2010, 5-year average esti-

mates will be available for geographies smaller than 20,000 people including census tracts and block groups. From 2010 on, all estimates will be updated annually.

Table 1

American Community Survey Release Dates									
Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the previous year released in the summer of:							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
Annual Estimates	250,000+								→
Annual Estimates	65,000+								→
3-Year Averages	20,000+								→
5-Year Averages	Census Tract and Block Group								→

☐ Data reflect American Community Survey testing through 2004.  
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office

More information, data, and other ACS topics are available online at the Office of Labor Planning and Analysis' Web site ([www.nj.gov/labor/lra](http://www.nj.gov/labor/lra)) and the US Census Bureau's Web site ([www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)). For more information about ACS data for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, PO Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388. Telephone: (609) 984-2595 or e-mail [Leonard.Preston@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:Leonard.Preston@dol.state.nj.us).

*Footnotes:*

1. Households are referred to as family households when one or more other persons living in the same household are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. Family households are classified as "married couple family" or other family according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. By contrast non-family households are comprised of either a group of unrelated persons or one person living alone.
2. The Poverty Rate is defined as the percentage of people or families that are below poverty. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).
3. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office.

*Notes:*

Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.  
Percentages are based on unrounded numbers.